

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. (Canceled)
2. (Canceled)
3. (Currently Amended) A method for the ~~treatment~~ inhibition of renal failure in a mammal, said method comprising administering daily or periodically to a mammal in need thereof an effective amount of levosimendan or its metabolite (R)-N-[4-(1,4,5,6-tetrahydro-4-methyl-6-oxo-3-pyridazinyl)phenyl]acetamide, or any of their pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof.
4. (Currently Amended) A method for reducing mortality in a mammal suffering from renal failure, the mortality being associated with the deterioration of kidney function, said method comprising administering daily or periodically to a mammal in need thereof an effective amount of levosimendan or its metabolite (R)-N-[4-(1,4,5,6-tetrahydro-4-methyl-6-oxo-3-pyridazinyl)phenyl]acetamide, or any of their pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof.
5. (New) The method according to claim 3, wherein the daily or periodic dose is administered orally.
6. (New) The method according to claim 4, wherein the daily or periodic dose is administered orally.
7. (New) The method according to claim 3, wherein the mammal in need thereof suffers from severe or end stage renal failure.

8. (New) The method according to claim 4, wherein the mammal in thereof suffers from severe or end stage renal failure.